people living below the poverty line in urban slums with a budget allocation of Rs. 100 crores for the current financial year.

(c) No City-wise target have been fixed under the scheme.

(d) The cost of construction of dwelling unit under the scheme will be in the range of Rs. 40,000/- to Rs. 60,000/- including the povision of sanitary latrine for an area of not less than 15 sq. metres.

(e) The scheme will be funded by the budget grants to the extent of 50 per cent leaving the balance to be matched by the State Government with funds from other sources such as beneficiary, urban local body or State Finances or loans from HUDCO.

Unauthorised encroachments in Central Park DIZ area

1494. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Central Park made by CPWD in DIZ area, Sector IV, New Delhi;

(b) whether, there are unauthorised encroachments which have not since been removed despite several complaints;

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken against the officials responsible for the said encroachments; and

(d) by when Government propose to remove the encroachments and get the Central Park vacated and maintain it properly so that residents/children may be benefited thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. There is an encroachment in the park in the form of a small temple, which was in existance prior to the development of the Park.

(c) and (d) The encroachment will be removed after receipt of permission of Delhi Government and following due process of law. No action is called for against any official. The park is being properly maintained.

Mega Housing Scheme for poor

1495. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently approved a Mega Housing Scheme for the poor residing in urban and rural areas particularly the people living in slums of towns and cities at half of the cost price;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the modalities for sanctioning of houses;

(d) the details of Central allocations made for the implementation of the scheme during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(e) the number of families, likely to be benefited under this scheme during the said period, State-wise, particularly in Rajasthan and Orissa; and

(f) by when the scheme is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) The Government has decided to launch Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana with the objective of providing shelter or upgrading the existing shelter for people living below the poverty line in urban slums. The scheme will be funded by the budget grants to the extent of 50 per cent leaving the balance to be matched by the State Government with funds from other sources or through loans from HUDCO.

(d) The Government has decided to launch the scheme in the current year with an allocation of Rs. 100 crores as subsidy. The details of the scheme will be reviewed by the Government before its inclusion in the Tenth Five Year Plan period to ensure convergence with similar ongoing schemes of the department.

(e) and (f) 4 lakhs additional houses are expected to be completed annually in urban areas for the urban poor. State-wise targets have not yet been fixed. The scheme will be implemented after the guidelines are framed and approved.

Funds for infrastructure development of Mega Cities

1496. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has sanctioned and released funds for the infrastructure development of mega cities to the nodal agencies though the agencies did not set up the revolving funds for the purpose and did not operate in the prescribed manner;

(b) whether it is a fact that large sum of money under the scheme were lying unspent with the nodal agencies at the end of 1999-2000; and